**COMPASS Parent Meeting**

December 6, 2011

***Affinity Process Protocol***

* The group addresses one question or one issue *(or in this case, two)*
* Each participant writes (usually brainstorms) one idea on a sticky note or note card.
* Participants place ideas on chart, wall, or flat space.
* The group categorizes topics and eliminates duplicates.
* Members name each category.

**What are your needs as parents?**

***Social and Emotional Needs***

* Tools to help children integrate socially (we’re good at being geeks at home, but how can we learn to create bonds within the larger community.)
* Would like ideas on dealing with child’s “attitude”
* What do I do if my child is bored in class?

***Parent Involvement***

* How can I be sure I am staying on top of my child’s needs both in and out of school?
* How can I enrich my child’s learning at home?
* How can I be more involved in my child’s education?
* I need to see more parent input applied in practice in our schools.
* To be invited to share my knowledge with gifted kids.
* Take home tools specific to our child.

***District Responsibility***

* More resources to navigate MCPS options for gifted kids.
* Better strategic planning at schools for meeting needs of high ability learners.
* How to help teachers understand different types of giftedness
* I need the District and my teachers to do their job and serve all kids. It is my job to support them, not lead the push for advanced curriculum.

***Communication***

* I need to have more communication with my son’s teacher so that I know he is doing okay.
* More online learning opportunities, such as Stanford site and info on camps.
* Communication from teachers and other staff

**What are your child’s needs? (You can’t use the word “challenge.)**

***Curriculum/Pace/Stimulus***

* Access to other materials rather than repetitive math
* Khan Academy?
* After school program that meets weekly or so. Perhaps a class with a specific learning task combining fun, camaraderie and learning (ie: making water balloon rockets, acting out a story etc.
* Extra activities to deal with boredom.
* Stay motivated in school.
* Extracurricular activities based on academics
* Science
* Upper-level curriculum resources for elementary (especially math)
* Faster pace for learning new concepts (less repetition)
* My 2nd grader needs more advanced reading material in the classroom
* More fun but still educational books
* More advanced books and materials
* A different curriculum. Math Expressions is much too repetitive for gifted learners

***Focus/Organization***

* Organizational skill development
* Someone to help her focus

***Social and Emotional Needs***

* Emotional support
* Focus on social and emotional needs
* Opportunity to shine (show off in class or share ideas/thought processes with peers)
* Emotional processing (school)
* To develop pride in oneself
* My child need to have his strengths recognized and build upon in the classroom
* My child needs to feel that he belongs in his classroom and is valued.
* Both my gifted kids need recognition of their abilities